

KS/K

326 Kupaua Place
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821

December 30, 1999

Mr. Van Norman and Mr. Berry
U.S. Department of Interior
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Planning, Management and Budget
1849 C. Street N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Mr. Van Norman and Mr. Berry;

We are the family of Libana Napela Crabb, who is the daughter of Lucy Napela Kaukau - born in Ka'anapali, Maui, March 26, 1881. We acknowledge the initial corrective action of Public Law 103-150 and Apology, as passed by our current U.S. Congress and president.

We are now ready to move forward with a mutual and clear understanding that the overthrow of Hawai'i by the U.S. government was illegal and "resulted in the suppression of the inherent sovereignty of the Native Hawaiian people". Those are very powerful words, written and supported by the U.S. Congress and president.

Our statement is simple. We repeat what you have heard over and over again in your visit with us. Our people must be self determining. They must have their lands returned and their Hawaiian government restored.

As time passes, our voices become stronger, our minds sharper, and our path clearer. Maybe you only have one year in your present assignment, however you have a life time to stand and support us in our effort. If your lives are true and your purpose clear, then you can only see this as an opportunity to help a people that have been wronged, Whether it be in this department, or next years department, you have the potential to help a people become whole again. That is really a truly amazing opportunity for a human being to be presented with.

Your lives will take you in many directions. And no matter where you are, or what capacity you are in, you and we, and everyone else who came to these meetings, or watched them on t.v., or read about them in the newspapers, will remember: Mr Smith from Anahola, Kaua'i, and the intimidation he felt from police while forcing him from his beloved home; you will see the pain of the woman from Makua, who's family lives on the beach; you will think of the teacher, Ku Kahakalau, who works with charter schools on the Big Island and has made it her life time effort to help the Hawaiian children of that area; and you will remember the Waianae fisherman who wanted more than two minutes to express his life time of struggle.

There are numerous other moments which I'm sure have touched your lives, Mr. Berry and Mr. Van Norman, and we are confident that the challenge of our people will remain with you for a long time. We invite you to join with us in our movement of realizing our sovereign nation. From this necessary basic foundation of self-determination will flow the health of our people; physically, emotionally, intellectually, and socially.

Aloha no,

Dennis Fern. Mary Fern. Dylan Fern

Dennis Fern

Mary Napela Fern

Beau Dylan Ka'iliha'o Fern